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STUDENT MINISTRY  
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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2



MAY 2018

**I CORINTHIANS  
3:6**

*“I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”*

**BSM students play a vital role in the process of planting and nurturing seeds of faith. When students are faithful in explaining the gospel, sharing their testimonies, or living with a lifestyle-witness, they trust in God’s promise that He will make the seeds grow. And He does.**

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## Planting Seeds of Faith: A BSM/NCM Partnership

The Apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 3:6 the communal effort in bringing people to faith in Christ. Addressing the conflicting loyalties of the Corinthian Church, Paul explains that multiple people played significant roles in the spreading and teaching of the gospel, but it is ultimately God who works in the lives of all individuals. Jesus also addresses this concept of a shared effort in John 4 where he tells his disciples to prepare for a spiritual harvest that they did not plant.

Strong partnerships in the gospel are essential to God’s plan of redemption. This May the BSM partnered with Northwest Collegiate Ministries (NCM) in Portland, OR, by sending a team of 14 to engage two college campuses: Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Community College – Sylvania. Our students spent weeks preparing for the trip by practicing sharing their testimonies, reviewing a simple, clear gospel presentation, and learning how to set up Gospel Appointments (intentional, personal faith conversations).

The team spent the first weekend in downtown Portland partnering with a new church plant called Spring of Life Church, which targets the south

east section of the city. Our students handed out free movie passes and conducted spiritual surveys with anyone willing to talk. Zach Ruiz, TAMUCC Senior, said of the people in the Northwest, “People were very genuine. They did not feel that they had to put up a front when they spoke with us.” Our students quickly realized that

although we were still ministering in our country, we encountered an entirely different culture in the Northwest. There is less familiarity with Christianity and even some strong opposition to organized religion in general. We met atheists, agnostics, pagans, Buddhists, and people that identified as “spiritual” without claiming a major world religion. While their views differed greatly, many people had one thing in common: they wanted to have serious conversations about faith. This opened so many doors for our students to share their faith in Jesus and plant seeds of truth.

Above all, students desired personal connection. While serving at Mt. Hood Community College, Jennifer Lopez, TAMUCC Junior, made a connection with a student named Sean. They shared the same major, which allowed them to connect quickly. Sean shared some of his story and doubts with Jennifer, which resonated with parts of Jen-

nifer’s journey of faith. She shared her experience in placing her trust in Christ and how that informs all of her life. Sean listened intently to Jennifer and left with something new to think about.

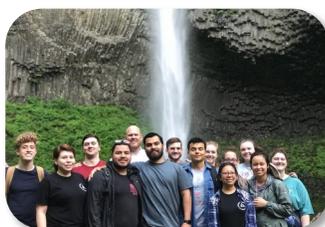
At PCC-Sylvania, our team spent the week passing out bagels, conducting spiritual surveys, prayer-walking campus, and participating in NCM’s weekly events. Tim Laughbaum, TAMUCC Sophomore, met Rob, a student who was searching for answers, but had some reservations about Christianity. Tim listened to Rob and asked some good

questions, but did not attempt to answer his questions immediately. Before their next meeting the following day, Tim looked up some helpful information to

help address Rob’s questions. Rob appreciated Tim’s insight, but mostly just an opportunity to express himself and his doubts. He continued to attend several other NCM events where Tim connected Rob to Jason, the NCM campus minister for follow up. To this day, Jason and Rob meet up weekly to talk about what it means to have faith in Christ.

The experience in Portland made a lasting impact on our students and the students of Portland. Where our

students planted seeds of truth, the NCM team remains to water and nurture those seeds. Our prayer is for the continued growth that will produce a harvest in God’s time.



# Mobilizing Students

John 20:21 *Jesus said to them again, Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.*



Robert Johnson, DMC Freshman, serving at Highland Lakes Conference Center



Zach Ruiz, TAMUCC Senior, supporting church plants in Italy



Shay Pitman, TAMUCC Sophomore, ministering to children and youth in Ireland

Naomi Gonzalez, DMC Junior, using nursing skills in the Philippines



Lilianna Long, TAMUCC Sophomore, serving at Highland Lakes Conference Center



William Galbreath, TAMUCC Freshman, ministering to youth in Bay City, Texas



## Rez Week 2018

For the past 4 years, BSM made a concerted effort to engage campus the week leading up to Easter; a week we call Rez Week (for 'Resurrection'). This year the BSM constructed a prayer tent on campus to create a space for students to meet with God. BSM students signed up for hour-long shifts at the tent to pray and to engage the curiosity of others. For 24 hours, TAMUCC and its students were covered in prayer.

A week earlier, Shay, TAMUCC Junior, met with BSM Director, Eric, for their weekly discipleship meeting. They went over a simple technique to share the gospel using Romans 6:23. Shay admitted she knew and understood the gospel, but had limited experience sharing it with others. She walked away from the meeting with a new appreciation for being prepared to share a clear, concise message of hope with others. A week later as Shay was helping to set up the prayer tent, a student approached the half-constructed tent with curiosity. After Shay gave a brief explanation of the tent, the student asked about what it



means to be a Christian – the perfect question that prompted Shay to use her training to share God's story of sending his Son to save the world. The student was amazed as no one made it that clear before. We are so thankful for Shay's teachable spirit and her boldness in sharing the message of Christ that day.

In addition to the prayer tent, our students spent time on Del Mar's campus engaging students with free coffee and gospel conversations. One DMC graduate, Karimi, who works on campus, stopped by the table for coffee and conversation. Karimi shared that she was struggling to find a community to help encourage her walk with Christ. Ben Acevedo, Campus Missionary Intern, prayed with Karimi and then invited her to watch the Passion of the Christ with the BSM the next day. She came to the BSM and connected with a small group of people. We are thankful for Karimi's life and for the Christian community that will encourage her and keep her accountable.



## Connecting Our Stories with God's Story

At the beginning of each semester, BSM leaders gather for a leadership retreat to pray for and plan the semester. In January, the BSM invited Sean Raybuck, a local missionary and youth minister, to train our students on sharing their personal testimonies. The challenge was preparing their stories to be less than one minute so that they could be easily shared with anyone. After a short instruction, the teams paired up and practiced with each other until everyone felt comfortable and confident in sharing their stories. The one-minute testimonies became a recurring theme throughout the semester, challenging our students to use their God-given stories to connect with



people and share the gospel.

Meanwhile, the youth at First Baptist Church, Portland, spent the last year refining their stories in order to share God's ultimate story of redemption. When Youth Pastor Justin Horton found out about the BSM's strategy in equipping students, Justin invited several BSM students to teach his students the same strategy. "It's important for the next generation of believers to be equipped to share their stories," said Micah Villarreal, DMC Sophomore. Students crave authenticity; it is refreshing to hear of students that live out what they believe and speak honestly about how faith informs their life.



A month later, BSM students returned for a follow-up training with FBC students. Instead of focusing on the technique of sharing a one-minute testimony, the students emphasized their personal experiences of overcoming fear when sharing with others. "We explained to them how we do get rejected and that either way that's how we plant the seeds of faith," said Esla Garcia, DMC Sophomore. "We wanted them to know that when they shared their story, they did their part."

Justin Horton said he saw a marked change in several of his students as they felt challenged, but empowered. "One of the things we can say confidently about the will of God is that he wants us to tell others about him," said Justin. The BSM is thankful for opportunities to equip and empower other believers as we partner with local churches.

## Semester Highlights



Engaging the campus



Abide prayer retreat



Culture Connection



Del Mar Bible Study



Beach Reach team



Student sharing his testimony at TAMUCC free lunch



TAMUCC's 'Big Event'



Praying over campus

## Fathom: Contemplating the Depths of God



What started as a small community of upperclassmen who desired to dive deep into the Bible has transformed into two thriving groups of college students that meet to learn, explore, ask questions, and grow as disciples of Christ.

Fathom Bible study, led by TAMUCC Graduate Student Hailey Boeck and TAMUCC Junior Ethan Leos, focused this semester on ancient biblical holidays. The topic was a hit among students as it required students to dig deep into Old Testament theology. "It was so cool to see how much people loved it. Just as every little part of the [Jewish] culture points to God, it begged the question to the students: does everything in your life point to God?" said Hailey.

After a thorough explanation of the reasons behind biblical holidays, we discussed how Jesus fulfilled *all* of these anticipatory celebrations. Students began to connect the subtle examples throughout the Old Testament that point to God's ultimate plan of redemption through Christ. They gleaned that the Old and New Testaments are not two separate movements, but the continuous story of God's plan for all of humanity through Jesus.

The last Thursday of each month was reserved for a Q&A session in which students' anonymous questions were discussed among the entire Fathom community. Christian Pressley, DMC Sophomore and Youth Minister at Agua Dulce Baptist Church, stated that Q&A nights were one of his

biggest takeaways from attending Fathom. "I started to incorporate time for Q&A's within the youth ministry at my church. It was just cool to see the interaction between people as we discussed what was on our hearts."

Every week Fathom drew new students and grew steadily over the year. Next year Fathom leaders and students are praying that this community continue to grow, multiplying into more groups that will spread across our campuses and city, reaching believers, spiritual seekers, and the unchurched.

*Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.* 1 Corinthians 2:10



## Prayer Points

We deeply appreciate your prayers for the ministry of the Corpus Christi BSM!

- Our goal is to **expand our influence on campus**. Pray that God will raise up more workers for the field.
- The **BSM is hiring an Associate Director** to oversee both Del Mar campuses. We have raised half of the salary. Pray that God will provide the other half.

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart.*  
Jeremiah 29:13

- Summer is an **important time of rest and vision casting** for the upcoming year. Ask the Lord to grant fruitful rest and renewed vision to the BSM staff and students.
- Please join us in **praying over the seeds of faith** our team planted in Portland, OR this May.
- **Begin praying for incoming freshmen this fall**. Pray for new leaders that need to be challenged in their faith and that students will

find Christ for the first time.

- **Praise God for the growth in our International Student Ministry!** Please pray for new opportunities on campus to meet and minister to international students.
- We have a **great leadership team returning in the fall!** Ask God to prepare their hearts and minds to lead their peers to Christ.

**Corpus Christi Baptist Student Ministry**

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Has the Baptist Student Ministry personally impacted you or someone you know? Do you believe in the work of reaching college students for Christ, then watching those students reach their community and world? Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially to support the ongoing ministry of the BSM in Corpus Christi? **All contributions are tax-deductible.**

Please detach this portion, and send this form with your contribution to:

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